

Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessment Resources

Quarterly Bulletin: October – December 2013

This quarterly bulletin compiles Smarter Balanced resources that were shared via the Agency's [Weekly Field Memo](#). The bulletins are stored on the Agency's [Smarter Balanced web page](#).

TOPICS:

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NEWS & UPDATES:

Vermont Schools Selected for Field-Testing of New State Assessment

Audience: All

27 Vermont schools selected to participate in field testing the Smarter Balanced Assessment System (SBAC), a new computer-based educational testing program that will replace the state's current NECAP tests for Math and ELA in the spring of 2015. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

Contacts: Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, at 802-479-1240 or angela.ross@state.vt.us; Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced Adopts Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Guidelines

Audience: All

The Governing States of the [Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium](#) voted to approve the *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines* in advance of a large-scale Field Test of the assessment system in early 2014. [Click here](#) to read the full press release. [Click here](#) to learn more about SBAC.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Education – Join the Conversation: Smarter Balanced Assessments & Common Core

Audience: All

In this episode of *Education – Join the Conversation*, Secretary Vilaseca talks to Michael Hock, AOE Educational Assessment Director; Ellen Thompson, Essex Town SD Curriculum Coordinator & [1993 VT-TOY](#); and Julie Longchamp, VT-NEA Professional Programs Director about Vermont's new assessments – Smarter Balanced (SBAC) and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Watch the video here: <http://bit.ly/15MnpJd>.

Contact: Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, 802-479-1240 or angela.ross@state.vt.us

Secretary Vilaseca on CCTV/Channel 17's Legislative Report

Audience: All

Reps. Dave Sharpe (D) and Joey Donovan (D) spoke with Vermont Secretary of Education, Armando Vilaseca this week on their show "Legislative Report" which you can view here: <http://bit.ly/16qsLMK>. They discussed several topics including IEP's, PLP's, internships, Common Core State Standards, Smarter Balanced assessments, and mental health.

Contact: Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, 802-479-1240 or angela.ross@state.vt.us

NECAP Reading, Writing, and Math Tests Administered for the Last Time

Audience: Administrators, Teachers, Board Members, Parents, Community Members

This year's administration of the NECAP reading, writing and mathematics tests concluded on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 marking the end of the fall testing program that has provided achievement results for nearly 7,900 Vermont students each fall since 2005. [NECAP](#) will be replaced by the Smarter Balanced ([SBAC](#)) Assessment program next school year. NECAP testing in science will continue through 2016.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

WEBINARS & CONFERENCES:

Common Core Institutes for English Language Arts & Mathematics: Assessment Tasks that Engage Learners and Elicit Student Thinking

Audience: Teacher Teams: English Language Arts Grades 3-12 and Mathematics Grades K-12

The instructional shifts of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) require teachers to use classroom assessments that are significantly different from past assessments. For instance, the Item Bank Assessments for reading and mathematics are aligned to our grade expectations and will not provide critical information about student progress towards CCSS. These day-long institutes with electronic follow-up sessions are designed to meet the need for assessment tasks--aligned to CCSS and Smarter Balanced design models--that engage learners and elicit students' current level of thinking. Smarter Balanced assessment items will be used to demonstrate the rigorous expectations of the standards. For additional information and to register, please go to <http://www.vermontpln.org/>.

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Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Overview Webinar

Audience: Case managers, Special Education Directors, Special Educators, Principals, General Education Teachers, Related Service Providers

This webinar will provide background information and an overview of the new DLM Alternate Assessment that will replace the Smarter Balanced (SBAC) assessment next school year. The presenters will also walk participants through the Common Core Essential Elements (CCEE) as they relate to instruction and assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Participants will be given time to ask questions following the presentation. Please download the CCEEs [here](#) prior to attending the webinar. Click on this link to register: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/705386734>

Contact: Cindy Moran, Alternate Assessment Coordinator, 802-479-1432 or cindy.moran@state.vt.us

RESOURCES:

Smarter Balanced Assessments in Vermont

Audience: All

If you want to learn more about Common Core implementation in Vermont as well as the new Smarter Balanced Assessment in about thirty minutes, this video provides a succinct, informed description of both. Watch the video here: <http://bit.ly/15MnpJd>.

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Smarter Balanced Assessments: Stay Up To Date

Audience: All

For news and other important information related to Consortium activities, we encourage individuals to visit the public website at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org> and sign up for the monthly newsletter by clicking on the Stay Connected link located at the top of the homepage.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced Field Test Training Modules

Audience: All

Smarter Balanced (SBAC) is developing training modules to support Field Test administration. Most modules will be released and available for use by January 28, 2014. [Click here](#) to read the training modules and learn more. Learn more about SBAC in Vermont here: <http://bit.ly/16OWy0j>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessments in Vermont

Audience: All

Last week, the Michigan Department of Education published a detailed comparison of 12 Common Core assessment systems, including the Smarter Balanced Assessment which is being field tested this spring at selected schools here in VT. Mandated earlier this fall by the Michigan legislature, the report used a Consumer Reports-style rating system to evaluate each assessment system against dozens of criteria. Read the report here: <http://1.usa.gov/1jYnG1z>.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs):

NEW Smarter Balanced (SBAC) FAQs

Audience: All

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium releases frequently asked questions (FAQs) to support the *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines*. Developed with assistance from the national Center on Educational Outcomes and based on issues identified by member states, the FAQs address concerns about how to provide appropriate universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations. The FAQs are available online: <http://bit.ly/19B6b3F>.

Contacts: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us; Frank Gerdeman, Asst. Director – Secondary & Adult Division, 802-479-1381 or frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced: FAQ

Audience: All

What if my school or district does not have the infrastructure to support computer adaptive testing? [Click here](#) to read the answer to this week's question here. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/16OWy0j>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Eye on Assessment: FAQ

Audience: All

What will [Smarter Balanced](#) assessments mean for me? Read the answer to this week's question here: <http://bit.ly/11CPdj9>, read past FAQs here: <http://bit.ly/1ioyoRn>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced: FAQ

Audience: All

When will the Practice Test scoring guides be released? [Click here](#) to read the answer to this week's question here. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/16OWy0j>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Eye on Assessment: FAQ

Audience: All

How will Smarter Balanced Meet the Needs of All Students? Read the answer to this week's question here: <http://bit.ly/15H16lc>, read past FAQs here: <http://bit.ly/1ioyoRn>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced: FAQ

Audience: All

What is important to know about Smarter Balanced and Common core? [Click here](#) to read the answer to this week's question here. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/16OWy0j>.

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Smarter Balanced: FAQ

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Smarter Balanced: FAQ

Audience: All

How are the assessments being tested before implementation in the 2014-15 school year? [Click here](#) to read the answer to this week's question here. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/16OWy0j>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Eye on Assessment: FAQ

Audience: All

What are the key components of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System? Read the answer to this week's question here: <http://bit.ly/1bWeZCH>, read past FAQs here: <http://bit.ly/11YXdeX>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced: FAQ**Audience: All**

Where can I find Practice Test scoring guides? [Click here](#) to read the answer to this week's question here. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/16OWy0j>.

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Smarter Balanced: FAQ**Audience: All**

Is the federal government using Common Core to collect data about individual students? Read the answer to this week's question on the [Agency's website](#).

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced: FAQ**Audience: All**

When is the Smarter Balanced Field Test schedule to be administered? [Click here](#) to read the answer to this week's question here. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/16OWy0j>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): FAQ**Audience: All**

There is a list of text exemplars for students who are participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Does DLM provide a similar list for students with extensive support needs? [Click here](#) to read the answer to this week's question. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/16OWy0j>.

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